

**Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities/
Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute**

**Announcing ARCC 202 Partnership Development Seed Grants- Cycle 1
Community-Academic Research Collaboration to Improve Health Equity**

The [Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities](#) (ARCC)/Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS), in partnership with Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH) announces the recipients of seed grants that support the development of partnerships that engage communities and stakeholders most impacted by health inequities in research collaboration with Northwestern research teams. ARCC believes that using the tools of science to achieve health equity can best be done when research honors & centers the expertise of communities as local, cultural, practice, lived experience experts in collaboration with academic scientific expertise. This is the 1st cycle of Partnership Development Seed Grants in ARCC's sixteenth round of seed grant funding. Each \$7,5000 award supports a partnership that includes a community lead from a local community organization and an academic lead from Northwestern for a 12-month project. Partnership Development grants support newly developing partnerships in relationship building, creation of partnership structure, exploration of shared areas of interest, and research capacity development. Priority was given to applications that focus on racial equity and addressing root causes of inequities and in this cycle all grantees chose to access anti-racism in research supplement funding to integrate anti-racist learnings and strategies into their approach, including use of the [ARCC Anti-Racist Community-Academic Research Reflective Practice Tool](#).

Over 15 years of seed grant funding, ARCC has distributed almost \$1.4 million to over 100 community-academic partnerships. The funded partnerships have led to increased community and academic capacity for engagement and research, new health improvements and policy changes, almost \$24 million in subsequent grant funding, and 42 peer-reviewed publications. Grants are supported by funds from the Northwestern University Clinical & Translational Sciences ([NUCATS](#)) Institute and Northwestern Memorial Hospital ([NMH](#)).

[Request for applications](#) for a second cycle of 2022 ARCC Seed Grants to support Community Research Capacity-Building grants, additional Partnership Development grants, and Research Pilot Seed Grants are open now. Applications for this cycle will be due in Spring 2022 and funded in Summer 2022.

ARCC 2023 Partnership Development Seed Grant- Cycle 1 Project Summaries

TaskForce 4 Evaluation, Data Integration and Technical Assistance

Christopher Balthazar, Taskforce Prevention and Community Services and Gregory Phillips II, Medical Social Sciences and Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

The Seed Grant will support the development and strengthening of the capacity of TaskForce Prevention & Community Services (TaskForce) to conduct community-engaged research in partnership with Northwestern University (NU). TaskForce has been a leader in advocacy for Black & African American sexual and gender minority (SGM) communities in

Chicagoland for 32 years, and with the hiring of a new Executive Director (Dr. Balthazar), is ready to advance a new research agenda. Dr. Phillips at NU is a leader in community-led approaches to capacity building, development, and evaluation focused on SGM health disparities. Together, Drs. Balthazar and Phillips will work to implement a systems-informed empowerment evaluation (SIEE) model within TaskForce to build capacity for future research activities.

Partnership Development to Increase HPV Vaccination Knowledge, Acceptance, and Uptake among Asian American Parents and Youths

James Wilson, Chinese Mutual Aid Association and Ha Ngan (Milkie) Vu, Preventive Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine

The proposed community-academic collaboration is a partnership between the Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA), with its 40 years of experience serving Chicagoland Asian American and immigrant communities, and Dr. Vu at Northwestern University, who has a decade of experience in community-engaged research to promote health equity. Our shared goal is to understand barriers and explore strategies to disseminate evidence-based information about HPV vaccination to increase HPV vaccine uptake in the community. Building on CMAA's robust youth programming (150+ youths served annually), our activities include 1) engagement with Asian parents and youths to understand multifaceted barriers to HPV vaccination, including the impact of structural racism on healthcare access; 2) identifying possible strategies for outreach and dissemination of evidence-based information about HPV vaccination to parents and youth; 3) activating parent and youth champions of HPV vaccination and identify approaches to build community capacity for research and peer education around HPV vaccination.

Partnership to Enhance Minority Participation in Clinical Trials (EMPACT Chicago)

Kimberly Richardson, Black Cancer Collaborative, and Dario Roque, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine

Black and Latina women with gynecologic cancers are underrepresented in clinical trials. Barriers to minority enrollment onto trials include not being offered trial participation, and lack of referral procedures. EMPACT Chicago is a clinical trial-matching and patient navigation program aiming to help Black and Latina women with gynecologic malignancies access, and enroll in clinical trials. The Black Cancer Collaborative (BCC) focuses on capacity building and self-advocacy of Black cancer patients regarding diagnosis, and treatment culminating in engagement with medical and scientific communities in the advancement of cancer care and research. This partnership aims to enhance the advocacy promoted by BCC by helping minority women understand the intricacies of clinical trial searching and matching through the EMPACT tool. In turn, these women will be better able to advocate for, and assist women with gynecologic cancers identify appropriate trials to which they may qualify, thus promoting awareness and utilization of the EMPACT tool.

ARCC Background

Established in 2008, the [Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities](http://www.arcconline.net) (ARCC) supports authentic community-academic research partnerships between Chicagoland communities and Northwestern University that benefit the people being researched and improve health and equity. ARCC advocates for a collaborative approach to research that honors, is driven by, and shares power with communities, as local, cultural, and lived experience experts. ARCC is guided by our [Community-Academic Steering Committee](#) comprised of thirteen community- and faith-based organizations, two public agencies, and eleven Northwestern faculty and staff. ARCC is a program of the [Center for Community Health](#) serving Northwestern's Institute for Public Health and Medicine ([IPHAM](#)) and the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Science ([NUCATS](#)) Institute.



For more information, www.arcconline.net or ARCC@northwestern.edu